



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli (410) 339-5065

Metropolitan Transition Center's Annual Breakfast With Santa At St. James and John School in Baltimore Friday, December 7

TOWSON, MD (December 1, 2007)---Correctional staff at the Metropolitan Transition Center in Baltimore will continue their annual tradition of Breakfast With Santa on Friday, December 7 at Sts. James and John School on Somerset St. in East Baltimore. For years, staff at the old state penitentiary have bought books, served breakfast, and provided Santa Claus for the kids at the school as a way to show goodwill during the holiday season.

Once again this year, Maurice Smith, now retired from his career as a correctional officer, will play the role of the jolly holiday ambassador. Kids will get to visit with Santa after eating a hot breakfast provided by the correctional staff. Each child will also get to pick a book from hundreds provided by the prison's employees.

"It's a wonderful event, and our chance to show the kids that correctional officers aren't bad guys," says Andy Stritch, who helps organize the event. Stritch is a transition coordinator at MTC, and one of the longest-serving employees in the Division of Correction, with 40 years of service.

Metropolitan Transition Center (MTC) is a "last-stop" prison for inmates who are about to return to society. Its current population is approximately 1,770. MTC is one of eight DPSCS-operated correctional facilities located along the Greenmount-Madison corridor just east of downtown Baltimore. Its first section was constructed in the early 1800s, making the prison the oldest still operating in all of America.

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